AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. – 14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) An apparatus for harvesting and implanting a bone core, comprising:

a collet assembly including a selectively engageable mechanism and defining an internal collet bore, said collet assembly further having a sleeve defining a sleeve bore, a collar disposed within said sleeve bore, and a compression spring within said sleeve bore providing a biasing force on said collar;

a harvester to selectively engage said selectively engageable mechanism and to be disposed within said internal collet bore, said harvester defining a harvester bore; [[and]]

a first graspable assembly and a separate second graspable assembly to selectively engage said collet assembly, each defining a graspable assembly bore that is generally aligned with said harvester bore when said first or second graspable assembly separately and selectively engages said collet assembly; and

a pin extending from said collar to engage a proximal pin engaging depression in an end wall of said harvester such that as a torque is applied to said collet assembly the torque is transferred to said harvester;

wherein said collar is slideable within said sleeve bore when acted upon by said harvester;

wherein said collar is biased in a first position by said compression spring disposed between said collar and said sleeve;

wherein said first graspable assembly is a drill motor and said second graspable assembly is a handle wherein either said drill motor or said handle individually selectively engages said collet assembly;

wherein said selectively engageable mechanism includes a generally quick-release mechanism wherein said harvester is engageable and disengageable from said selectively engageable mechanism with pressure from the user.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:

a plunger moveable within said graspable assembly bore and said harvester bore;

wherein said plunger is operable with said harvester bore during a harvesting of the bone core;

wherein said collet assembly is disengageable from either of said first or second graspable assembly and said plunger is operable to remove the bone core from said harvester.

17. – 18. (canceled)

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said harvester includes a collet engaging end and a harvesting end;

wherein said harvesting end includes a sharpened portion to cut a selected portion of a bone to harvest the bone core;

wherein said harvester is operable to collect the bone core within said harvester bore.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said sharpened [[end]] portion includes at least one of a sawtooth and a generally planar edge.

21. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the bone core may be removed from either of said collet engaging end [[and]] or said harvesting end.

22. – 23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim [[15]] 16, wherein the bone core is collectible within said harvester bore and said plunger is operable to remove the bone core from said harvester bore.

25. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[15]] 16, wherein said plunger is able to push the ~~selected~~ bone ~~portion~~ core into a selected position from [[the]]said harvester substantially directly from [[the]]said harvester.

26. (original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said harvester bore is substantially equal in at least one dimension throughout.

27. (currently amended) A method of harvesting and implanting a bone core, comprising:

interconnecting a harvesting member with a collet ~~member~~ in a quick-release manner, including operably contacting said harvesting member with a biasing member and providing a biasing force on said harvesting member;

interconnecting said collet [[and]] with a graspable member including a graspable handle or alternatively a drill motor;

driving said harvesting member into a selected bone portion;

trapping a selected length of bone within said harvesting member; and

removing said selected length of bone from said harvesting member into a selected location;

wherein interconnecting said collet with a graspable member includes selectively locking said collet ~~member~~ to [[a]] said graspable handle that is strikeable with a mallet[[;]] and ~~wherein~~ driving said harvesting member includes striking said graspable member with [[a]] said mallet to drive said harvesting member into the selected bone portion;

wherein interconnecting said collet with a graspable member alternatively includes selectively connecting said collet to said drill motor such that said drill motor is able to rotate said collet and driving said harvesting member includes rotating said harvesting member with said drill motor and pressing said harvesting member into the selected bone portion.

28 - 31. (canceled)

32. (original) The method of 27, further comprising:

disposing said harvesting member with said trapped selected length of bone relative to an implant site; and

wherein removing said selected length of bone includes pushing said selected length of bone into the implant site.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

disposing a plunger through at least a portion of said harvesting member;

wherein removing said selected length of bone includes pushing said ~~selective~~ selected length of bone from said ~~harvester~~ harvesting member into the implant site with the plunger.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein [[the]] said harvesting member includes a first end and a second end, wherein removing said ~~selective~~ selected length of bone includes removing the selected length of bone from at least one of the first end and the second end.

35. (currently amended) An instrument for harvesting a selected bone core, comprising:

a graspable member operable to be grasped by a user;

a harvest member operable with said graspable member to harvest the selected bone core; and

a connecting member including a spring biasing member and a bearing member positioned within a sleeve, the connecting member operable to selectively interconnect said graspable member and said harvest member;

wherein said graspable member includes both of an impact handle and a drill motor, wherein either of said impact handle or said drill motor are selectively engaged with said connecting member;

wherein [[the]] said bearing member engages a bearing aperture of the harvest member in a quick release manner to selectively hold [[the]] said harvest member relative to [[the]] said graspable member;

wherein [[the]] said spring biasing member compresses between [[the]] said harvest member and a wall within [[the]] said sleeve when said bearing member is engaged to [[the]] said harvest member.

36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) The instruments of claim 35, wherein said harvest member includes a cannula ~~including~~ and a cutting end including at least one of a sharpened edge and a saw tooth.

38. (original) The instrument of claim 35, wherein said connecting member connects with said harvest member;

wherein said harvest member can be engaged and disengaged from said connecting member with a substantially axial motion alone.

39. (original) The instrument of claim 35, wherein said harvest member is removably coupled to said a connecting member.

40. (currently amended) The instrument of claim 35, wherein said graspable member is removably coupled to said [[a]] connecting member.

41. (currently amended) An instrument for forming a selected core of a bone, comprising:

a harvesting member operable to be driven into a selected portion of the bone, said harvesting member having [[an]] a bearing aperture;

said harvesting member defining a cannula including a dimension substantially equal throughout a length of said harvesting member;

a graspable portion extending from said harvesting member such that said harvesting member can be positioned relative to [[a]] the selected portion of bone for forming the bone core; and

a collet assembly including a biasing spring member, a collar, [[and]] a bearing member, and a sleeve defining an internal bore;

wherein the biasing spring member is compressed by said collar when said harvesting member is moved against said collar of said collet assembly and said bearing member engages said bearing aperture to interconnect said harvesting member and said graspable portion;

wherein said collar is disposed within said internal bore of said sleeve;

wherein said biasing spring member is within said internal bore of said sleeve and provides a biasing force on said collar;

wherein said bearing member extends through said bearing aperture and contacts a bearing locking depression in said sleeve to hold said collar in a selected position and hold said harvesting member relative to said graspable portion.

42. (canceled)

43. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising:

a plunger member;

wherein said plunger member is operable to be moved through said ~~internal~~ cannula to remove the selected bone core from [[the]] said cannula.

44. – 45. (canceled)

46. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 20, ~~wherein the graspable assembly includes a driveable handle and a drill motor;~~

wherein said handle is a driveable handle that is operable to be struck to drive said ~~harvester with a planar edge~~ generally planar edge of said harvesting member substantially axially into a surface and maintain [[a]] the bone core ~~of a material~~ within ~~the harvester~~ said harvesting member;

wherein [[the]] said drill motor is operable to rotate said ~~harvester~~ harvesting member with said ~~saw tooth edge~~ sawtooth into a surface and maintain [[a]] the bone core ~~of material~~ within ~~the harvester~~ said harvesting member.

47. (canceled)